

REMARKS

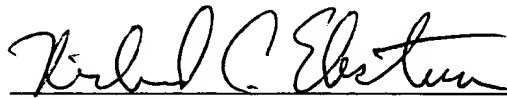
Claim 1 has been revised to delete recitation of "a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1" and "an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1." Those recitations served as the basis for the rejection under U.S.C. § 102(a). In this regard, see the Advisory Action of December 4, 2000 (paragraph 4). Hence, entry of the amendment will simplify issues for appeal, at least, by rendering moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Accordingly, entry of the amendment is proper.

Appellants believe that no fee is due with this communication. However, if the USPTO determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **09-0108. This form is enclosed in duplicate.**

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. A substantially purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - b) a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1[,
 - c) a biologically active fragment comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1].